

I. Listing of Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An anchoring device for disposition within an intervertebral space, comprising:

first and second end members, the first and second end members cooperating to slidably receive a prosthetic insertion device,

wherein the first and second end members each comprise

a first surface, at least one vertebral-engaging member extending from the first surface,

a second surface in an opposed relation to the first surface, a first sidewall, a second sidewall, and a back wall extending from the second surface to define a socket adapted to receive a portion of the prosthetic insertion device; and

at least one retention member having a first end and an engagement portion, the first end attached to a portion of the end member, ~~the engagement portion moveable~~ the at least one retention member rotatable between a first position wherein the engagement portion is positioned outside of the socket for allowing the portion of the prosthetic insertion device to slide within the socket and a second position wherein the engagement portion is positioned at least partially within the socket to inhibit sliding of the portion of the prosthetic insertion device within the socket.

2. (Previously Presented) The anchoring device of claim 1 wherein the at least one retention member comprises at least one cam device.

3. (Currently Amended) The anchoring device of claim 2 further comprising an access hole for accessing the cam device for selectively rotating the retention member between first position and the second position.

4. (Currently Amended) The anchoring device of claim 1 wherein the at least one vertebral-engaging member is at an oblique angle angled relative to the first surface.

5. (Original) The anchoring device of claim 1 wherein the at least one vertebral-engaging member comprises a sharp edge.

6. (Original) The anchoring device of claim 1 wherein the at least one vertebral-engaging member and the first surface are coated with a bone-growth promoting substance.

7. (Original) The anchoring device of claim 6 wherein the bone-growth promoting substance is hydroxyapatite.

8. (Original) The anchoring device of claim 6 wherein the at least one vertebral-engaging member and the first surface are roughened prior to being coated with the bone-growth promoting substance.

9. (Original) The anchoring device of claim 1 wherein the second member is inverted relative to the first member.

10. (Previously Presented) The anchoring device of claim 1 wherein the first and second sidewalls extend along the second surface from a front portion to a rear portion of the second surface.

11. (Previously Presented) The anchoring device of claim 10 wherein the first and second sidewalls are substantially parallel.

12. (Previously Presented) The anchoring device of claim 11 wherein the back wall extends substantially transverse to the first and second sidewalls.

13. (Original) The anchoring device of claim 1 further comprising a hole formed through each of the first and second end members.

14. (Previously Presented) An anchoring device for receiving a prosthetic insertion device, comprising:

a first end member, comprising:

a first surface in an opposed relation to a substantially parallel second surface;

a pair of vertebral-engaging members extending from the first surface, the vertebral-engaging members being angled towards one another;

a pair of flanges extending from the second surface, the flanges being angled towards one another to define a pair of elongated slots, the pair of elongated slots adapted to slidably receive a portion of the prosthetic insertion device; and

a pair of retaining devices positioned adjacent the elongated slots, the retaining devices moveable between a first position for allowing the prosthetic insertion device to slide within the pair of elongated slots and a second position for limiting the motion of the prosthetic insertion device within the pair of elongated slots;

a second end member cooperating with the first end member to slidably receive the prosthetic insertion device, the second end member comprising:

a first surface in an opposed relation to a substantially parallel second surface;

a pair of vertebral-engaging members extending from the first surface, the vertebral-engaging members being angled towards one another;

a pair of flanges extending from the second surface, the flanges being angled towards one another to define a pair of elongated slots, the pair of elongated slots adapted to slidably receive a portion of the prosthetic insertion device; and

a pair of retaining devices positioned adjacent the elongated slots, the retaining devices moveable between a first position for allowing the prosthetic insertion device to slide within the pair of elongated slots and a second position for limiting the motion of the prosthetic insertion device within the pair of elongated slots.

15-53. (Canceled)

54. (Currently Amended) An anchoring device for placement within an intervertebral space and for receiving a prosthetic insert, the anchoring device comprising:

first and second end members, the first and second end members cooperating to slidably receive the prosthetic insert, wherein the first and second end members each comprise

a first surface for engaging a vertebra;

at least one vertebral-engaging member extending from the first surface;

a second surface in an opposed relation to the first surface;

a pair of flanges extending from the second surface, the flanges being angled towards one another to define a pair of elongated slots, the pair of elongated slots adapted to slidably receive a portion of the prosthetic insert; and

a pair of retaining members positioned adjacent the elongated slots and moveable between a first position for allowing the prosthetic insert to slide within the pair of elongated slots and a second position for limiting the motion of the prosthetic insert, wherein the retaining members are aligned substantially transverse to a plane extending substantially along and between the pair of elongated slots when in the first position, and wherein the retaining members are aligned substantially parallel to the plane when in the second position.

55. (Previously Presented) The anchoring device of claim 54 wherein at least one of the pair of retaining devices comprises a cam device.

56. (Previously Presented) The anchoring device of claim 55 wherein the cam device is rotatable between the first position and the second position.

57. (Previously Presented) The anchoring device of claim 56 further comprising an access hole for accessing the cam device and selectively rotating the cam device between the first position and the second position.

58. (Currently Amended) The anchoring device of claim 54 wherein the at least one vertebral-engaging member is at an oblique angle angled relative to the first surface.

59. (Currently Amended) The anchoring device of claim 54 wherein the first surface and the at least one vertebral-engaging member are coated with a bone-growth promoting substance.

60. (Previously Presented) The anchoring device of claim 54 wherein at least one of the first and second members further comprises a wall extending substantially transverse to the pair of flanges to limit the travel of the prosthetic insert.

61. (Previously Presented) The anchoring device of claim 54 wherein the pair of retaining members are attached to the end member.

62. (Previously Presented) The anchoring device of claim 61 wherein the pair of retaining members are pivotally attached to the end member.

63. (New) A system for securing a prosthetic insert within an intervertebral space, comprising:

a first end member comprising:

a first surface,

at least one vertebral-engaging member extending from the first surface,

a second surface in an opposed relation to the first surface,

a first sidewall, a second sidewall, and a back wall extending from the second surface to define a first socket adapted to receive a first portion of the prosthetic insertion device,

at least one retention member having a first end and an engagement portion, the first end attached to a portion of the end member, the at least one retention member selectively rotatable between a first position wherein the engagement portion is positioned outside of the first socket for allowing the first portion of the prosthetic insert

to slide within the first socket and a second position wherein the engagement portion is positioned at least partially within the first socket to inhibit sliding of the first portion of the prosthetic insert within the first socket, and

a tool receiving aperture for accessing the at least one retention member; and

a tool having a working end sized to fit at least partially within the tool receiving aperture of the end member, wherein the tool is adapted to selectively rotate the at least one retention member between the first position and the second position.

64. (New) The system of claim 63, further comprising
a second end member comprising:

a first surface,

at least one vertebral-engaging member extending from the first surface,

a second surface in an opposed relation to the first surface,

a first sidewall, a second sidewall, and a back wall extending from the second surface to define a second socket adapted to receive a second portion of the prosthetic insertion device.

65. (New) The system of claim 64 wherein the second end member further comprises at least one retention member having a first end and an engagement portion, the first end attached to a portion of the end member, the at least one retention member selectively rotatable between a first position wherein the engagement portion is positioned outside of the second socket for allowing the second portion of the prosthetic insert to slide within the second socket and a second position wherein the engagement portion is positioned at least partially within the second socket to inhibit sliding of the second portion of the prosthetic insert within the second socket.

66. (New) The system of claim 65 wherein the second end member further comprises a tool receiving aperture for receiving the tool for selectively rotating the at least one retention member between the first position and the second position.